



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



The holiday season is an exciting and busy time of the year, especially in stores and shopping malls. Here are some tips to keep you and your children safe during the shopping hustle and bustle.

Your Own Safety



- Try to shop during daylight hours
- If you must shop at night:
 - Shop with a friend
 - Park in a well-lighted space
 - Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
 - Be extra careful when carrying a wallet or purse



- Do not overburden yourself with packages
- Lock your car and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk
- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or well-lighted location



Safety When Shopping With Children

- Always accompany your child to the restroom or to your car
- Never leave children alone in a car (leaving children 6-years of age or younger alone in a car is illegal in California) or at public facilities (i.e. arcades or playgrounds) while you are shopping
- Teach your children to seek help from uniformed security police officers, salespeople with nametags, or information booths if they are separated from you while shopping
- Teach your child never to talk to or go anywhere with strangers
- While you are shopping, never leave your children home alone without an adult or child 13 years of age or older



Information obtained from: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Los Angeles Police Department and The National Crime Prevention Council